

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~.

Please REPLACE the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 9, with the following paragraph:

The main signal blades 10-14 are coupled together through a ring connection via optical waveguides provided on the back plane 15, and are enclosed with high density inside a blade enclosure ~~46A~~16, thereby achieving a super-micro blade-type optical transmission apparatus. A single blade provides all the functions equivalent to a single related-art apparatus.